UNITED NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1995/28
20 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Annual session 1995
5-16 June 1995, New York
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR NAMIBIA

Report of the Executive Director

I. BACKGROUND

1. UNFPA recommends and requests that the funding approval authority for the comprehensive population programme for Namibia be increased by $3.7 million. The programme would thus total $8.2 million for 1992-1996, of which $5.8 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources and $2.4 million from multi-bilateral resources (see table).

2. In May 1992, the Governing Council approved the first country programme for Namibia in the amount of $4.5 million for the five-year period 1992-1996. This approved assistance of $4.5 million has been entirely allocated. Of the $3 million approved from UNFPA regular resources, approximately $2.1 million has been allocated; of the $1.5 million approved from multi-bilateral resources, the actual allocation has reached $2.4 million as the result of the receipt of unanticipated multi-bilateral resources (from the Governments of Finland, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden).

3. This request is presented according to the programme areas in use when the programme was first approved in 1992. The proposed programme activities for 1995 and 1996, however, take into consideration the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

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4. The increased funding authority is essential in order that: (a) the reproductive health/family planning (RH/FP) and population policy formulation programmes can be continued and strengthened; (b) the population information, education and communication (IEC) and women, population and development (WPD) programmes can be initiated, as approved by the Governing Council; and (c) a nationwide population/family life education (in-school) programme can be instituted, as requested by the Namibian Government.

5. These recommendations are in accordance with those of the country programme mid-term review, held in Windhoek, Namibia, on 2 December 1994. The review found that the country programme was well designed and that the objectives are clear and remain relevant, given the country context and the ICPD Programme of Action. It did caution, however, that many of the programme objectives might not be met because of the severe shortage of national professional counterparts and the need to implement various additional activities. The review felt that these shortcomings could be overcome and that significant progress could be made by the end of 1996 if additional funding were forthcoming.

II. STATUS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

6. Based on the National Development Plan, the programme identified five sectors for support. Of these, major activities have been implemented in only three: maternal and child health/family planning (MCH/FP); policy formulation and implementation; and data collection and analysis. The bulk of the country programme resources have been allocated to these three sectors, due to project needs and the availability of additional, unanticipated multi-bilateral resources. Due to local constraints and extensive review of sectoral needs, the IEC and WPD projects were only finalized in late 1994; these projects can now be undertaken only if increased overall funding authority is approved.

7. In accordance with the ICPD Programme of Action, steps have been initiated to conceptually and substantively reorient the MCH/FP programme into a reproductive health programme, which includes, inter alia, counselling and service delivery for family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, promotion of general sexual health for women, men and youth, and initiatives to promote safe motherhood. Project achievements include the establishment of the MCH/FP Unit in the Ministry of Health; formulation of a curriculum for in-service RH/FP training; implementation of training courses in RH/FP, health education and programme management; development of a monitoring and evaluation system; formulation of a draft National Family Planning Policy and a draft Safe Motherhood Plan of Action; conduct of studies on adolescent pregnancy; and renovation of clinics.

8. Increased funding authority of $2.1 million is needed in order to continue and strengthen the management and implementation of the national RH/FP programme; formulate a comprehensive IEC policy in the area of RH/FP and develop national and regional IEC units to promote the understanding, acceptance and practice of RH/FP; provide long- and short-term

training for health-care personnel; conduct RH/FP research; provide contraceptives and equipment; and renovate health facilities.

9. Significant progress has been achieved in the population policy and development programme. In 1993 the Population Planning Unit (PPU) was established within the National Planning Commission (NPC). The PPU has been instrumental in coordinating the population activities of various sectoral ministries and NGOs, including efforts funded by international donor agencies. Government officials, community leaders and media representatives have been sensitized to population and development issues through numerous seminars and the newsletter on population and development. The Inter-Agency Technical Committee on Population (IATCP), composed of planning professionals from almost all government ministries and many NGOs, has been established to assist the PPU and the NPC in integrating population and development planning and in formulating a National Population Policy and Action Programme. Current efforts are geared towards the national conference planned for July 1995 that will discuss the drafting of a national population policy.

10. The main dilemma is a shortage of trained staff in the PPU, which is currently staffed with one national as coordinator and one international adviser. Increased funding authority of $500,000 is necessary to support and strengthen the institutional and human- resource capacity for integrated population and development activities.

11. The data collection and analysis programme has achieved most of its aims: a national population census was conducted in 1991; the data have been processed and analysed from a demographic perspective. Most of the census reports have been published and are being widely used (e.g., by the Ministry of Health to plan for the delivery of health services within identified areas). The census data are now being further analysed from a population and socio-economic development perspective. The results will be channeled into the national planning process in collaboration with the PPU and the National Planning Commission.

12. While the data collection and analysis project was well designed, the time-frame for implementation, however, was unrealistic. Thus, more time, and concomitant funding, were required to process, analyse and disseminate the census data results; funds are also needed to continue technical assistance in 1995. Due to additional and unanticipated multi-bilateral resources, funds have been made available to implement these activities. This has increased the resources allocated to data collection and analysis by $500,000.

13. Activities in the population IEC sector were designed to empower the populace to make responsible decisions regarding their families, make better use of available resources and address environmental concerns. To address these issues, the Government has requested UNFPA assistance for two efforts: a non-formal IEC project to reach the rural populace, especially in the heavily populated northern areas, and a population/family life education (POP/FLE) project designed for schools. As of March 1995, both projects had been approved and preliminary activities initiated. Full implementation awaits the approval of the increased funding authority.

14. Increased funding authority of $300,000 for 1995 and 1996 is essential for the implementation of the two IEC projects. The project for the non-formal sector requires funding to enable the Government and NGOs to produce population messages to be disseminated through a wide variety of channels, including television, radio, video and traditional media. The POP/FLE in-school project requires resources to enable the national educational system to integrate population and family life instruction into the formal school curriculum on a nationwide basis.

15. While the national overall approach to women and development was being formulated, some activities were undertaken for income-generation and reproductive health for women and for information and education on population issues for youth. In 1994 UNFPA supported pre-project WPD activities that resulted, inter alia, in the finalization of a project document in April 1995. The aim of the proposed WPD project is to enhance the capacity for gender and population sensitive planning and policy-making through increased awareness among national policy makers and decision takers of the socio-demographic and health implications of promoting the legal and economic status of girls and women; and to increase the protection and promotion of the reproductive health status of Namibian girls and women through mobilization of non-medical organizations and resources, including women's organizations. The funding authority as approved by the Governing Council is sufficient.

16. Increased funding authority in the amount of $300,000 is also requested for the programme reserve. As during the first three years of the programme, these funds will be used to support multi-sectoral activities in support of general programme development, and for population advocacy and awareness creation among the general public.

17. Several donors have expressed interest in providing additional multi-bilateral resources for the programme. The extent and timing of such multi-bilateral assistance, however, have not been determined. Thus, the proposed request for increased funding would be provided from UNFPA regular resources.

III. RECOMMENDATION

18. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the increased funding authority for the Namibia country programme by $3.7 million as detailed in the attached table, subject to the availability of resources, and authorize the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for its management, funding and execution.

UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME - NAMIBIA
1992 - 1996

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	RESOURCE ASSISTANCE and DISTRIBUTION as APPROVED by GOVERNING COUNCIL, 1992			PROPOSED INCREASED FUNDING APPROVAL AUTHORITY and REVISED DISTRIBUTION		
SECTOR	UNFPA Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total	UNFPA Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total
Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	2,500,000	1,100,000	3,600,000
Information, Education and Information	600,000	300,000	900,000	1,200,000	0	1,200,000
Data Collection and Analysis	300,000	700,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,300,000	1,500,000
Population Policy Formulation	500,000	0	500,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Women, Population and Development	500,000	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000
Programme Reserve	100,000	0	100,000	400,000	0	400,000
TOTAL	3,000,000	1,500,000	4,500,000	5,800,000	2,400,000	8,200,000